

# **MATTHEWS VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

September 6, 2017

## **Minutes**

Chairperson Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Fisk asked for a moment of silence for awareness of the victims of the recent hurricanes and of the threat of North Korea.

**Committee Members present:** Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Terry Price, Gregg Smith, Jack Santaniello, Angelo Renguso, Amanda Kohout, Janet Perkins, Larry Stawicki, Kathleen Wilsbach, Fred Baylor, Dessi Dufresne, Joe Bochicchio and Beth McLemore.

**Guests welcomed:** Charlene and Jeff McGuire, prospective members Neil Broome, and Micheal Vento and Rad Pate, ToM Liaison to MVAC.

**Minutes of August 2, 2017.** The minutes were approved as transmitted.

### **Old Business:**

1. **Subcommittee 1.** No report.
2. **Subcommittee 2.** Amanda Kohout reported that the rolling calendar is now back on track and resources organized.
3. **Subcommittee 3.** No report.
4. **Subcommittee 4.** No report.
5. A motion was made and seconded to accept Neil Broome and Michael Vento as new members of MVAC. The vote by the committee was unanimous to accept these veterans as new members of MVAC. Their applications will be forwarded to the ToM Commissioners for final approval.
6. Kathleen Wilsbach recommended that a group picture of the MVAC be taken as MVAC now has a full board of 20 members. Janet Perkins asked that members be advised in advance of picture taking.
7. Changes of MVAC SOPs are in committee and changes will be forwarded prior to the October 4<sup>th</sup> committee meeting. Fisk noted that the MVAC Bylaws were written for MVAC by the ToM and that any changes have to be approved by the ToM.

### **New Business:**

1. Treasurer Jack Santaniello passed out MVAC Funding Request Procedures and Expenditures. Requests for funds should go to Jack first. Any expense item over \$500 requires two bids. Total funds available to MVAC for fiscal year 2018 are \$3,203.00. Recent purchases were a literature stand for \$215.00 and \$175.00 for a sympathy wreath for Ed Dement's funeral service.

2. MVAC Chairperson Comments regarding Consent Items.

a. Veterans Community Action Center meetings is beneficial to MVAC for meeting new resource people, other organizations and ideas for planning a Veterans Information Fair in Matthews.

b. A conditional reservation for the Matthews Community Room for the Vietnam and Korean War exhibits from May 25, 2018 through May 28<sup>th</sup> has been received. Final confirmation from ToM Administrative Assistant, Ashley Murdock, for these dates should be confirmed in October.

c. A meeting was held with Commander Alan Burgess, American Legion Post 235, regarding an OK for MVAC assistance for Memorial Day and Veterans Day Stumptown events. An OK was given for partnering MVAC and VFW Post 2423 for Vietnam and Korean War Exhibit for May 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. POC Tim Woods for VFW.

d. Fisk forwarded MVAC Bylaw changes to Rad Pate on 8/31/17. Original MVAC Bylaws were written by the ToM. Changes must be approved by ToM.

e. Need to design and purchase

(1) MVAC Logo

(2) Condor rep said they could add “Matthews Veterans Advisory Committee” to the ToM flag at no cost. Price with stand is \$130.00. Pole and top brass another \$130.00 with a two-week delivery.

(3) Table Throw

(4) Trifold Flyer

f. Fisk requested each committee member indicate how many hours could be committed to MVAC considering general meeting, subcommittee meetings, homework and events. A tally sheet was passed to members.

g. At the October meeting copies of current MVAC applications will be available to 10 members whose terms expire in December. Resubmissions will be taken at this meeting to submit to ToM in a timely manner for planning and membership vacancies.

h. Chairperson has two speaking engagements in November – Chamber of Commerce, November 8<sup>th</sup> and Post 235 Matthews American Legion on November 11<sup>th</sup> regarding Stumptown Veterans Day Event.

i. Fisk and Tom met with Jamison Knight, Diversion and Inclusion specialist for Novant Health. Mr. Knight recommended contacting veteran Aaron Harper who is at CHS and works primarily with veterans and also recommended attending quarterly meeting of the Veterans Resource Group which is a forum to determine how best to assist local veterans.

j. Fisk and Janet Perkins attended a meeting with David Broadie, Military Veterans Hall of Fame (NCMVHF) Executive Director. NCMVHF is looking for advice on its initial selections of veterans to induct in May 2018, and thoughts on best practices for raising funds for its new 80,000 square foot facility in uptown Charlotte.

(1) Janet Perkins remarked that David Brodie is the contact for the Rapid Response Network of veteran organizations.

(2) Gregg Smith reported that nominations may be submitted by September 30, 2017 to NCMVHF for the May 30, 2018 inaugural induction.

k. A Queen City Honor Flight will take place on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Call Nico Iannelli at 704-516-5205 with any questions.

3. MVAC Assessment by Chairperson:

a. Fisk passed a document to all members of subcommittees of tasks and grading (report card) with the outcomes for the past year. Assessment considerations on what MVAC needs to change, delete, modify or create and record results. Particular considerations are: Does MVAC need to eliminate or combine subcommittees?; Reassigning committee members where necessary; and, How to accomplish new taskings. Changes to any new taskings/initiatives will need to be presented to the ToM commissioners for approval. This assessment/grading prompted the following suggestions: Larry Stawicki recommended that the committee not be divided by subcommittees. Fisk's response was that for the good of order and accomplishment of tasks, subcommittees are necessary. Amanda Kohout expressed her concern about the overlap of tasks among the subcommittees. Fisk said this discussion shall continue at the October meeting.

4. Open Comments from MVAC members:

a. Dessi Dufresne reminded the committee of the upcoming Ken Burns TV series called "The Vietnam War" starting October 7<sup>th</sup>.

b. Neil Broome said that the Carolina Veteran Organization from Rock Hill soliciting funds for a May golf tournament is bogus.

c. Fisk started a conversation about the relevance of the MVAC to the ToM with the following comments and suggestions:

(1) Dessi suggested that the MVAC veteran parade idea be tied to the ToM's Labor Day parade.

(2) Tom suggested that a short "elevator speech" speech be given to the Town Board of Commissioners to help them explain the MVAC mission.

(3) Fisk recommended that he personally invite commissioners and new Mayor to our monthly meeting on a rotation schedule, and, also invite the *Matthews-Mint Hill Weekly* editor to a meeting.

(4) Joe Bochicchio raised the question of What does the ToM expect the MVAC to accomplish. He suggested that MVAC educate the ToM mayor and commissioners about the economic value of having military families and especially

veterans retiring to the ToM with its outstanding schools, hospital, sporting facilities and local businesses. Joe also mentioned that there is a way for the ToM to get federal money because of the high quality of life the ToM offers.

(5) Dessi said that most newcomers go to the Matthews Chamber of Commerce and that MVAC should have information available at the Chamber.

(6) Janet commented that North Carolina and South Carolina have more veterans than any other states and that this information should influence the ToM to be “a military and veteran friendly town.”

5. Public Comments:

(1) Guest Charleen Thompson, whose son is a West Point grad and an Army Officer, suggested that MVAC educate the public about the Blue and Gold Star groups in the area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Kathleen Wilsbach, Secretary